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or popular government. We think the warning of the London Peace Society to the friends of peace in England, as timely as it is able; but we hope Mr. Bright, the eloquent Quaker Member of Parliament, will prove correct in the position he takes, that Kossuth's plea for non-intervention is pacific in principle, and does not involve the necessity of any ultimate resort to arms.

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#### PETITION TO CONGRESS ON PEACE.

*To the Honorable the Senate of the United States:*

The American Peace Society beg leave respectfully to address your Honorable Body on a subject involving the resources and stability of the Republic, and the personal security and happiness of every citizen.

Neither facts nor arguments are needed at the present time to prove that WAR is one of the direst calamities to which mankind are subject. Its multiplied and aggravated evils are acknowledged and deplored by all. The only professed justification of war is that it averts a still greater evil. We stop not to inquire how far this plea is urged in good faith, nor how far it is supported by the testimony of history. We come before your Honorable Body to ask your adoption of a measure having all the conservative influence ascribed to war, without its horrors and devastations, and thus to illustrate both the present age, already so distinguished for the benefits it has conferred on the human family, and the American character, renowned for its practical adaptation to the removal of existing evils.

Whatever opinion your memorialists may entertain of the wisdom and efficacy of military preparation as a means of securing the blessings of peace, they ask no action of your Honorable Body in reference to the army and navy, nor do they propose any measures in the slightest degree impairing the ability of the nation to repel aggression. They merely request your countenance for a simple, efficacious mode of averting war, which, without making the smallest sacrifice of national honor, will secure the just claims of the country with far greater certainty than the ever doubtful arbitration of the sword.

However friendly may be our present relations with other powers, causes of complaint will no doubt hereafter arise to interrupt the existing amity. If, as many suppose, it is the dictate of wisdom, "in peace prepare for war," surely it is the dictate of a far higher wisdom, "*in peace prepare to prevent war.*"

We are now at peace with all the nations of the earth; and both our power, and our extended and coveted commerce are guarantees that any proposition we may in the spirit of amity make to foreign governments, will be respectfully received, and deliberately considered. The high and peculiar position now occupied by the United States in the family of nations, encourages, if it does not morally require them, to make an effort to maintain those peaceful relations which so greatly enhance their prosperity and influence, and which cannot be interrupted without occasioning a vast amount of suffering both to themselves and to others. There is happily a proposition for effecting this great object, which may be made to foreign governments without exciting jealousy or ill will, and which, if accepted in a single instance, would secure to us the future amity of the accepting party without giving offence to others. This proposition is simply an invitation to enter into a treaty with us, binding the contracting parties, in the contingency of any future difference which cannot be satisfactorily adjusted by negotiation to refer the same to the decision of an

umpire selected for the purpose, and to abide by the award that shall be made in pursuance of such reference.

In such a compact there could of course be no sacrifice of national honor, and it is nearly impossible there should be any of national interest. The proposed reference is to be made only after negotiation has been tried and proved fruitless, and when arbitration or war is the only alternative. A submission to the award being required by plighted faith, would, instead of involving disgrace, be an illustration of national honor and integrity. The submission, moreover, by guarding our commerce from interruption and spoliation, by reserving our resources from a wasteful and profitless expenditure, and by saving multitudes of our citizens from wretchedness and slaughter, could not fail to be far more advantageous than a war not only uncertain in its duration and results, but inevitably attended with extended and complicated suffering.

Considerations like these induce your memorialists earnestly to beseech your Honorable Body to embrace the enviable opportunity you enjoy of introducing a new era of peace and happiness among the nations of the earth, and of conferring on our own country the moral glory of diffusing "peace on earth, and good will among men." In the name of patriotism, humanity and religion, we ask, we entreat your Honorable Body formally to declare your conviction, that it would be expedient for the executive department of the government to enter into communication with foreign powers, inviting them to form treaties with the United States, binding the contracting parties in the event of any future misunderstanding which cannot be adjusted by negotiation, to refer the subject to the decision of an umpire to be appointed for the occasion.

If, however, your Honorable Body should unfortunately deem such an experiment too bold and hazardous, and should decline to recommend a measure which would deprive the government of the chance of enforcing its claim by a resort to arms, then would your memorialists prefer a second prayer. If our country is to remain exposed to the calamities of war, surely all will unite with us in desiring that these calamities may not be inconsiderately invoked in a moment of popular excitement, but that time should be allowed for reflection before two nations rush into the direful struggle of mutual destruction. The measure we have proposed, we believe to be perfectly consistent with the honor and safety, and highly conducive to the happiness of our country. But should it unhappily be found that in this opinion we differ from your Honorable Body, then we ask, and we ask in confidence and in hope, that you will be pleased, by a formal resolution, to express your approbation of treaties stipulating for the reference to arbitration of all future international questions which cannot be settled by negotiation, and restricting the contracting parties from commencing hostilities against each other until six months after notice shall have been given by either contracting party, that the award is unsatisfactory, and will not be accepted.

In this way, where war is not averted, it will at least be delayed. Time will be given for reason to resume the sway which passion had usurped, and opportunity will be afforded to merchants and others to seek refuge from the coming tempest. A vast amount of property will be saved from destruction, many lives will be spared, and in various ways the horrors and calamities of war will be greatly mitigated.

All which is respectfully submitted.

By order of the Executive Committee,

WILLIAM JAY, President,

CHARLES BROOKS, Chair Ex. Com.

GEO. C. BECKWITH, Cor. Secretary

WM. C. BROWN, Rec. Secretary.

Boston, Dec. 3, 1851.

**PETITIONS TO CONGRESS.**—In our last we called the special attention of our friends to the importance of numerous petitions to both Houses of Congress. We would refer anew to the suggestions there made, and earnestly hope our friends will not decline nor neglect so easy and yet so important a service.

**KOSSUTH IN AMERICA.**—We ask our friends to ponder the warning of the London Peace Society on a preceding page, as even more needed in this country than in England. We exceedingly regret to see the war-spirit that is following in the footsteps of Kossuth in this country. We would fain believe he does not wish to rouse such a spirit among our people, and doubt not their “sober second-thoughts” will deplore and condemn it. No true friend of peace can fail to sympathize with the gifted and generous Hungarian in his zeal for the liberties of his native land; but we must confess our surprise that grave statesmen, reverend preachers of the gospel, and even some professed or supposed friends of peace, as well as editors not a few, should betray an enthusiasm, apparently so wild and reckless, in favor of war-measures on our part to establish and maintain the peaceful doctrine of non-intervention. God forbid that we should ever depart in this respect from the advice and example of Washington; it would prove fatal to ourselves, and dangerous to the cause of freedom through the world. We plead earnestly for non-intervention, a doctrine long and earnestly inculcated by the friends of peace, but protest even more earnestly against plunging the world into interminable wars to enforce it. Nor is there any need of such a crusade; for England, France and America, if united in earnest for non-intervention, could, merely by diplomacy, and the power of public opinion, weave this doctrine, in less than twenty years, into the law and practice of all civilized nations.

**OMISSIONS.**—Restricting ourselves very much to Substitutes for War as the chief topic of this number, we are obliged to omit several articles that have been waiting some months for insertion. But delay does not destroy their value.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE ADVOCATE.**—Cannot our friends in every place send us some new subscribers at the commencement of a new year? Can they not persuade some around them to insure the Advocate for themselves by paying \$2 as annual members of our Society, or a single dollar or more as donors? Either of these would secure the Advocate to them for one year.

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